

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following is a complete, marked up listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parentheses, underlined text indicating insertions, and strikethrough and/or double-bracketed text indicating deletions.

Listing of the Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A protective device for the safety-related shutdown of an electrical unit, comprising:
  - a first input for receiving a switch-off signal;
  - a second input for receiving a switch-on signal in the form of a switch-on pulse;
  - an output for driving the electrical unit; and
  - a pulse processing device for setting the protective device to an activation state, in which it is switchable on when the switch-off signal is not applied, for a predetermined period of time from reception of the switch-on pulse, wherein
    - the pulse processing device includes a timing element which provides an acknowledgment command for maintaining the activation state for a predetermined time after the switch-on pulse.
2. (Previously Presented) The protective device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the switch-on signal originates from an on pushbutton.
3. (Previously Presented) The protective device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the switch-off signal originates from a latchable emergency-stop pushbutton.

4. (Previously Presented) The protective device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrical unit is an actuator.
5. (Previously Presented) The protective device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inputs and outputs include a plurality of channels.
6. (Previously Presented) The protective device as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the falling edge and both edges of the switch-on pulse are evaluated by the pulse processing device for setting the protective device to the activation state.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Previously Presented) The protective device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the predetermined period of time for the activation state corresponds to at least one of the activation time of the electrical unit and a further protective device.
9. (Previously Presented) A protective system having a plurality of protective devices as claimed in claim 1, connected in cascade fashion, a first input of a second of the plurality of protective devices being driven by the output of a first of the plurality of protective devices.
10. (Previously Presented) The protective system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the inputs of the plurality of protective devices are connected to a common on pushbutton.
11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~claim 11~~claim 16, wherein the switch-on signal originates from an on pushbutton.

13. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~claim 11~~claim 16, wherein the switch-off signal originates from a latchable emergency-stop pushbutton.

14. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~claim 11~~claim 16, wherein the electrical unit is an actuator.

15. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~claim 11~~claim 16, wherein the switch-on and switch-off signals are received on a plurality of channels.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for safety-related switching of an electrical unit, the method comprising:

receiving a switch-off signal;

switching the electrical unit off;

receiving a switch-on signal in the form of a switch-on pulse;

switching the electrical unit on, the electrical unit being switchable on for a

predeterminable period of time after reception of the switch-on pulse; and

providing an acknowledgement command for maintaining an on state of the electrical unit for a

predetermined time after the switch-on pulse is received~~The method as claimed in claim 11,~~

wherein at least one of the falling edge and both edges of the switch-on pulse are evaluated in order to start the predeterminable period of time in which the electrical unit is switchable on.

17. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~claim 11~~claim 16, wherein the predeterminable period of time for switching on the electrical unit corresponds to at least one of the activation time of the electrical unit and a further protective device.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for safety-related switching of a plurality of protective devices connected in cascade fashion, a second of the plurality of protective devices being connected with the aid of a first of the plurality of protective devices in accordance with the method as claimed in ~~claim 11~~claim 16.

19. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the switch-on signal makes all of the plurality of protective devices available simultaneously.

20. (Previously Presented) The protective device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrical unit is a contactor.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in ~~claim 11~~claim 16, wherein the electrical unit is a contactor.

23.-25 (Cancelled)